

MOBILE - U.S. Rep. Jo Bonner, R-Alabama, today announced that the United States Small Business Administration (SBA) will be hosting a post-hurricane disaster recovery seminar for Baldwin County businesses affected by Hurricane Ivan. The

seminar will be held on  
Thursday, October 7, 2004

, between

9:00 a.m.

and

4:00 p.m.

at the

Erie

Meyer

Civic

Center

in

Gulf Shores

,

Alabama

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The SBA seminar, which is free and open to the general public, is designed to provide area businesses and commercial interests with information on programs available to assist with recovery and reconstruction in the aftermath of the recent hurricane. The following agencies have been asked to participate in this conference: the Alabama Insurance Commission, Alabama Power, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the SBA Disaster Assistance Office, and the Women's Business Center.

"Hurricane Ivan led to a significant level of damage and destruction in the First District and it will take some time before south Alabama is able to fully recover from this disaster," Bonner said. "In addition to the many thousands of families affected by the storm, hundreds of small businesses – which are the backbone of

the economy in our district – have been directly impacted.

These losses have not only been seen in damage to office and manufacturing facilities, but have also been felt by the employees whose livelihood depends on the jobs these businesses provide.

“The Baldwin County seminar being conducted by the SBA will provide invaluable information to the owners and employees looking for the help to rebuild their businesses, and I am appreciative of their efforts in this regard.

I have been assured by officials with the SBA that they will be conducting similar small business seminars in the remaining counties of the First District.”